

**Borough of Rugby.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1944,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

**Warwickshire Combined Districts.**

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1, MILVERTON HILL,  
LEAMINGTON SPA,  
September, 1945.

**To the Rugby Borough Council.**

MR. MAYOR, MRS. GREEN, AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1944, and it is of special personal interest to me as it marks the completion of 25 years in your service.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is only a short statement of fact. For the first time for several years, statistics can be printed in connection with population, etc. ; it is to be hoped that in the future it will be possible to give further details when printing, paper, etc., are more available.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the members of the Council and my colleagues.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Green, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## ***Borough of Rugby.***

### **A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.**

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1944	...	...	43,930
Birth Rate	...	...	20.0
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	23
Death Rate	...	...	9.3
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes		— 1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	34
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			33
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	35
Death from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

### **B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

1. *Public Health Officers*.—Mr. E. R. R. Mengham resigned from the staff in March, and Mr. W. Henderson in October, 1944. It has not been possible to replace either by making temporary appointments.

6. *Laboratory Facilities*.—The following Table shows the number of bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.		Negative.		Total.
Diphtheria	...	4	...	93	97
Enteric Fever	...	—	...	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	2	...	12	14
					111

### **C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

1. (1) *Water*.—(a) The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

(b) Bacteriological examinations have been made of both raw and treated water, and samples submitted for chemical analysis. All gave satisfactory results.

(c) No contamination was found as a result of analyses or examinations.

(d) It is estimated that the population supplied by water main direct to houses in 1944 was 43,700, and by means of standpipes 240. The number of houses supplied being 11,930 and 70 respectively.

(2) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—Again, working under considerable war difficulties, the two sewage disposal works have continued to give satisfactory effluents.

The total number of cleansings of pail closets during the year was over 12,000.

2. *Rivers and Streams*.—Steady improvement in the condition of the River Avon can be reported, resulting from the action commenced last year and referred to in the Report for 1943, for the elimination of industrial effluents likely to give rise to pollution. An improvement in the river flow has been brought about by straightening, dredging and cleansing of the river bed by the Catchment Board.

3. *Closet Accommodation*.—(1) Approximately 230 pail and earth closets remain, no reduction having been accomplished during the year.

(2) *Public Cleansing*.—Refuse collection has been carried out in a reasonable manner by fortnightly collections of domestic refuse. Continued salvage work is maintained at a good level.

(3) *Swimming Baths*.—The purity of the water both in the open and closed baths has been maintained.

## D. HOUSING.

*General Observations*.—No systematic house-to-house inspections have been carried out.

The total number of dwellinghouses inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts during the year is 110 and the number of visits made for the purpose is 563. In consequence of 155 notices served in respect of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 83 houses were rendered fit.



## E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—During the year the following samples were taken :—

- (1) 7 ordinary milks for bacteriological examination.
- (2) 1 ordinary milk for biological examination.
- (3) 58 milks for chemical analysis.

Results of the examinations or analyses :—

- (1) 6 were satisfactory.  
1 was not satisfactory.
- (2) 1 gave negative results.
- (3) All were genuine.

The vendors and producers of the unsatisfactory samples submitted for bacteriological examinations were notified of the results and advised in the methods of clean milk production.

Under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme 491 samples were taken and forwarded to the Area Laboratory for examination. Participation in the Scheme was discontinued in July when the results of the examinations were refused to Local Authorities.

(b) *Meat Inspection*.—All slaughtering for Rugby and district has been carried out at the Ministry of Food Cattle Market Slaughterhouses, and all condemned meat and offals have been sent by the Ministry to a waste utilisation plant at Northampton.

It is necessary for an Inspector to be on duty during the whole of the time that slaughtering is taking place, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Mr. Masi act as Meat Inspectors for the Ministry. The centralisation of slaughtering has helped in the inspection of meat in the town, and the following is a summary of the animals slaughtered and the meat condemned during the year :—

	<i>Beasts.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
<i>Animals slaughtered and carcasses inspected</i> ...	2,305	633	15,954	286	2,099	21,277
<i>Meat condemned.</i>						
<i>Tuberculosis.</i>						
Whole carcasses...	18	33	—	3	7	61
Part carcasses and/or organs	246	189	—	41	6	482
% of animals affected ...	11.45	35.07	—	15.38	0.62	2.55

	<i>Beasts.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Other diseases.						
Whole carcasses...	7	12	38	6	30	93
Part carcasses and/or organs	282	94	163	11	10	560
% of animals affected ...	12.54	16.74	1.32	5.94	1.91	3.07
% of total of animals affected ...	23.99	51.81	1.32	21.32	2.53	5.62

*Weight of meat condemned in pounds.*

	<i>Whole Carcases.</i>	<i>Part Carcases.</i>	<i>Organs (estimated).</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Beasts ...	9,729	2,806	15,320	27,855
Cows ...	18,253	2,402	9,211	29,866
Sheep ...	1,306	257	541	2,104
Pigs ...	1,077	836	338	2,251
Calves ...	1,286	23	324	1,633
	<hr/> 31,651 <hr/>	<hr/> 6,324 <hr/>	<hr/> 25,734 <hr/>	<hr/> 63,709 <hr/>

Making a total of 28 tons 5 cwts. and 93 lbs.

(c) *Bakehouses*.—There are 26 bakehouses, including factory bakehouses, on the Register, and these have been visited and supervised and are generally well maintained and kept in a clean condition.

(d) *Food and Drugs Act, 1938*.—The Corporation are responsible for the Administration of this Act, and during the year 180 samples have been taken by the Sampling Officers of the Corporation and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. One hundred and sixty-one samples were reported upon as being genuine, and nineteen samples as not genuine.

## VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

*Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1935.*

		Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1936	...	—	127	86	—	48	—	8
1937	...	—	71	163	—	84	—	22
1938	...	—	37	55	4	33	—	16
1939	...	—	5	37	—	53	—	14
1940	...	—	37	144	—	60	—	14
1941	...	—	49	94	2	85	—	8
1942	...	—	13	66	—	61	—	17
1943	...	—	13	43	—	80	—	7
1944	...	—	4	90	2	56	—	8

Reference to Table III. will give the age incidence of the cases notified during 1944.

*Smallpox.*—No cases were notified during the year.

*Diphtheria.*—During the past year there were 4 cases notified, with no deaths.

All the cases were taken to the Isolation Hospital.

The cases were distributed throughout the town. One case had been immunised.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.*—Continued during the year and at the end of 1944, 3,780 school children had been treated and 1,779 under school age, giving a total of 5,559.

*Scarlet Fever.*—There was a rise in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, 90 as compared with 43 in 1943. There was nothing discovered which called for special comment. 81 cases went to Hospital.

*School Closures.*—Nil.

*Non-notifiable Infectious Disease.*—There was nothing of special note.

Notification of infectious disease occurring amongst the children at school is duly sent by the teachers.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS			NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
						Non-						Non-		
			Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.
			M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
0	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	1	...	1	2	...	—	—	...	1	1
5	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	—	1	...	—	1
15	...	...	...	8	11	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	1	2
25	...	...	...	6	7	...	—	—	...	4	5	...	—	—
35	...	...	...	4	4	...	1	1	...	6	1	...	—	—
45	...	...	...	4	2	...	2	1	...	2	1	...	1	1
55	...	...	...	3	2	...	1	—	...	1	—	...	1	—
65 and upwards			...	—	2	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
			...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
TOTALS			...	26	30	...	8	6	...	15	9	...	4	5

During the past year there have been notified 70 cases. In 56 cases the lungs were affected, and the remaining 14 the disease affected other parts of the body.

Of the 70 new cases notified during the past year, 12 have died during the year.

*Treatment.*—During the past year 54 cases have been admitted to a Sanatorium for treatment.

50 cases were discharged after treatment.

## REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A copy of this report has been received and kept for reference.



TABLE I.

## BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1944.

			Inspections and Observations made	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
				Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...		563	7	148	83
Cow Sheds	...	...	62	—	—	—
Lodging Houses	...	...	6	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	18	—	—	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	28	—	1	3
Bakehouses	...	...	17	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	...	...	615	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	247	—	72	77
Water-closets	...	...	29	—	—	—
House Drainage	...	...	100	—	—	—
Water Supply	...	...	9	—	—	—
Pigsties	...	...	15	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept	...	...	15	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	2	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	94	—	2	1
TOTALS	...	...	1805	7	223	164

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food, except meat	349
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	180
Ditto found adulterated	19
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis	4
Ditto condemned as unfit for use	—

## PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding, etc. Disinfected or Destroyed...	933
Rooms of Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	146
Schools ditto ditto ditto	—

T. BARLETT, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II  
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1944 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1938	38,130	544	14.6	21	39	410	10.7
1939	39,190	534	14.0	19	36	459	11.6
1940	41,670	578	13.9	28	48	508	12.2
1941	44,180	690	15.6	31	44	487	11.0
1942	43,770	705	17.1	22	31	419	9.6
1943	43,540	856	19.6	33	39	462	10.6
1944	43,930	885	20.0	30	34	406	9.3

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1944.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1944.  
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	17.6	0.50	11.6	46
126 Great Towns, including London			20.3	0.64	13.7	52
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	20.9	0.61	12.4	44
London	...	...	15.0	0.42	15.7	61

TABLE III.  
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.  
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE  
YEAR 1944.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.									Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.									
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.			
Small-pox ... ..											
Plague ... ..											
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	4	.....	1	1	1	.....	1	.....	4	.....	
Erysipelas ... ..	10	.....				1	6	3	.....		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	90	1	30	42	7	7	3	.....	81	.....	
Typhus Fever ... ..											
Enteric Fever ... ..	2	.....		2							
Pneumonia ... ..	56	.....	8	8	12	6	15	7	.....	18	
Malaria ... ..											
Dysentery ... ..	19	.....		8	11						
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	8	.....			2	6					
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis											
Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	.....			1						
Encephalitis Lethargica											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum											
Polio-Encephalitis ... ..											
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	56	.....	3	19	13	14	5	2	.....	20	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	14	.....	3	5	.....	5	1	...	.....	8	
Totals ... ..	260	1	45	85	47	39	31	12	85	46	

TABLE IV.  
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes ... ..	208	198
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
4 Whooping Cough ... ..	—	1
5 Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	12	8
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	3	5
8 Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	3	—
9 Influenza ... ..	—	3
10 Measles ... ..	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph. ... ..	—	1
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.) ... ..	5	4
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod. ... ..	6	4
15 Cancer of Breast ... ..	—	4
16 Cancer, other Sites ... ..	21	15
17 Diabetes ... ..	2	4
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	21	25
19 Heart Disease ... ..	50	40
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys. ... ..	10	12
21 Bronchitis ... ..	10	4
22 Pneumonia ... ..	12	6
23 Other Resp. Diseases ... ..	4	1
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod. ... ..	2	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	1	—
26 Appendicitis ... ..	1	1
27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	3	5
28 Nephritis ... ..	6	6
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis ... ..	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes ... ..	—	1
31 Premature Birth ... ..	4	2
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	8	9
33 Suicide ... ..	1	2
34 Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	4	4
35 Other Violent Causes ... ..	2	3
36 All Other Causes ... ..	17	27